19th May 1954]

SRI S. C. C. ANTONY PILLAI :—" May I know why there should be any difference in the concessions granted to these people? Some are granted half-fee concessions and others are granted full-fee concessions. Secondly, may I know whether this rule applies to converts from the Harijan community to any other religion also or only to Christianity? If it does not apply, why such a distinction is made? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Moplahs of Malabar district are also classified under backward classes. As I said, there is only a very slight difference. I do not know why hon. Members should be harping on this point. If they come to my room, I can explain to them that there is practically no difference whatsoever in the concessions that the Government give."

*Development of the Siddha System of Indian Medicine.*

* 981 Q.—SRI K. V. RAMASWAMI (on behalf of Sri C. Kandasamy) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the efforts made by the Government to develop or to resuscitate the Siddha System of Indian Medicine?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Siddha System of medicine is receiving due consideration from Government just as the other indigenous systems are viz., Ayurveda and Unani. The Siddha System of medicine is being taught in the College of Indigenous Medicine. Treatment in the Siddha System is given to the patients in the Government Hospital of Indigenous Medicine at Madras. Text-books on Siddha System have been written and printed at Government expense. The Government permit the local bodies to run institutions in this system of medicine. They also give maintenance grants in respect of medical institutions of Indigenous Medicine (including Siddha) run by private people, wherever necessary."

*Expenditure incurred on the Soviet Cultural Delegation to Madras.*

* 982 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount spent in connexion with the recent visit of the Soviet Cultural Delegation to Madras; and

(b) whether this amount has been spent by the Government of India, or by the State Government and if by both, what part by each?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) & (b) No information as to the total amount spent in connexion with the visit of Soviet Cultural Delegation to Madras between the 13th and the 20th of February 1954, is available, as they were the guests of the Government of India throughout their stay in India.